

CITY ITEMS.

The weather yesterday was again clear and cold, and at night the sharp northerly breeze was decidedly uncomfortable. The streets are frozen hard, and there is considerable floating ice in the rivers.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY.—David Paul Brown will lecture this evening before the Historical Society on "Shakespeare's Burialplace."

BURNS.—An unusual number of "Burns' Festivals" came off on Tuesday night. This (Monday) evening Henry Ward Beecher lectured on "Burns," at the Cooper Institute. Meanwhile, the building in which Burns was born remains the lowest sort of an almshouse, where vile liquors are dispensed, and brutal orgies are the nightly pastime.

CITY MORTALITY.—According to the report of the City Inspector there were 411 deaths in the city during the past week—an increase of 45 as compared with the mortality of the week previous, and 12 less than occurred during the corresponding week of 1858. The increase of deaths this week appears to be due to the greater prevalence of diseases of the brain and nerves, and also to a greater disposition to contract affections of the throat and lungs. Complaints of the stomach and bowels show a trifling increase this week over last, but are not so prevalent as they have been lately. The mortality among children seems to have been very great, as more than 411 deaths reported by the Inspector (222 or more than half) were of children five years old and under. The following table shows the number of deaths for the past two weeks among adults and children, distinguishing the sexes:

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Week ending Jan. 15, 1859	88	110	110	306	614
Week ending Jan. 22, 1859	93	113	124	310	640

Among the principal causes of death were the following: Bronchitis, 7; consumption, 58; convulsions (infantile), 41; dropsy in the head, 19; inflammation of the bowels, 4; inflammation of the lungs, 39; inflammation of the brain, 10; marasmus (infantile), 10; scarlet fever, 12.

There were 3 deaths of apoplexy, 7 of bronchitis, 6 of cancer, 12 of congestion of the brain, 15 of dropsy, 4 of debility (infantile), 3 of delirium tremens, 2 of epilepsy, 3 of erysipelas, 6 of disease of the heart, 8 of interperitonitis, 1 each of fainting and exposure, 5 of typhus fever, 2 of typhoid fever, 8 of whooping cough, 1 of tetanus, 11 premature births, 2 still-born, and 11 from violent causes, including 1 murder and 2 from burns and scalds. The annexed figures show what portions of the human system have been most affected: bones, joints, &c., 3; brain and nerves, 102; generative organs, 7; heart and blood vessels, 18; lungs, throat, &c., 128; old age, 5; skin, &c., and eruptive fevers, 17; still-born and premature births, 39; stomach, bowels and other digestive organs, 43; uncertain seat and general fevers, 39; urinary organs, 1; unknown, 9.

THE NUMBER OF DEATHS, compared with the corresponding weeks in 1857 and 1858, was as follows:

Week ending Jan. 15, 1859	614
Week ending Jan. 15, 1857	573
Week ending Jan. 15, 1858	596
Week ending Jan. 22, 1859	640
Week ending Jan. 22, 1857	611
Week ending Jan. 22, 1858	611

The nativity table gives 279 natives of the United States, 86 of Ireland, 24 of Germany, 5 of England, 8 of British North America, 5 of Scotland, 1 each of France, Italy and Wales, and 1 unknown.

BROOKLYN STREET ANNOYANCES.—We are assured that the Brooklyn Police would very gladly arrest the noisy ruffians who are constantly annoying the quiet residents, and also clear the streets of all the noisy peddlers, if they were sustained by the higher authorities. The Brooklyn Council have neglected to pass stringent ordinances against the bellowing of the oystermen, brewer's yentlens (who are constantly telling the people to "wake up"), the tinkers, and other shriekers, who perpetually fill the ears of the inhabitants with discord, and the magistrates will not adjudge them guilty of any disorder. The police deem it decidedly enough in young gentlemen who may feel very enough to sing through the streets at night, because it is presumed they have been drinking a little; yet a peddler may, as late as 10 or 11 o'clock at night, attract the head of a person sick almost to death, and scatter scores of children from their pillow, with his jangling cries, but he must not be interfered with.

The Police Magistrates of Brooklyn, from what we learn, are far more remiss in their duty than their brethren of New-York. The Police complain that most of the offenders they arrest are discharged, and immediately return to their vices. The street ruffians have consequently become so bold that they treat the Police with contempt, and defy their interference. It had long since one of the Brooklyn Magistrates had a policeman indicted for arresting a rowdy in the act of committing an assault and battery. The Police bring no encouragement from the Magistrates, are therefore deterred half the time from making necessary arrests.

THE STEPHENS WIFE MURDER.—The case of Jas. Stephens, who was indicted for poisoning his wife, Sophia Stephens, is set down for trial to-day in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, before Judge Davies. An additional panel of 500 jurors has been ordered to serve both at Circuit, and Oyer and Terminer.

We are authorized to say that a paragraph in the city papers stating that the body of a child brought by the Hudson River Railroad, on its way for interment in a box with a label upon it, not indicating the contents, is wholly and absolutely false; and we have received the best possible proof of its incorrectness, and believe that every possible care will be taken to prevent its recurrence.

The Petit Jury of the January term, Court of Sessions, have presented a report to Assistant District Attorney Sedgwick, for his efficacy as an officer.

The steamship Glasgow sailed on Saturday for Glasgow with 19 cabin and 89 steerage passengers.

FIVE POINTS HOUSE OF INDUSTRY.—In our edition of Friday it was stated that during the past month 5,800 meals had been given at a cost of \$37.80. This is an error. It should have been for the last week. During the month the Institution has given 25,772 meals at a cost of about \$45.15.

ARREST FOR ROBBERY.—Officer Carr of the Sixth Ward on Saturday arrested the inmates of a vile den on the Five Points on a charge of robbing a man named Harris of some money and jewelry. The women were committed for examination.

A CURIOUS CHAPTER OF CHEATERY.—We have heard and read a great deal about the paltry knavery of New-York, but a case which came before the Mayor last Saturday surpasses, in the confounding stupidity of the victim and the adroitness of his swindlers, anything of the kind that we can remember. About noon a very decent-looking, middle-aged man was brought into the Mayor's office by Deputy Sheriff Bernard Kelly, and, as his Honor was engaged in his private room, the stranger sat down near the door till his case could be heard. He was coarsely dressed, his single hair curling being tucked into great cowhairs, and his face and neck were covered with a faded colored pocket-handkerchief.

The man evidently had no more wit than sufficed for the most ordinary purposes of life, and he seemed to have just stepped out of a neighborhood where the vulgar simplicity is not yet called upon to contend with city contrivances. Under ordinary circumstances the dullness of the man would have secured him against reportorial iniquities, but there was a something so pathetic, so helplessly downcast in his expression, as he sat there slowly mopping up the big tears which coursed down his cheeks, that we could not but sympathize with him. He was the matter. He replied by telling a long, rambling, and almost incoherent story, from which we condensed the following narrative:

Michael Knight, a farm laborer, from East River, Maine, arrived here at a late hour on Thursday night, on his way to Rochester, N.Y., to visit his father and mother. He had a letter from his father, and as soon as he was settled in his room, he wrote him a long letter, and sent it by a messenger to his father. He was very anxious to hear from his father, and he was very anxious to hear from his mother. He was very anxious to hear from his father, and he was very anxious to hear from his mother.

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NEW-JERSEY ITEMS.

EXPLOSION OF GAS IN THE CARS.—A young lady residing in New-York City, named Miss Fowler, was slightly injured on Wednesday last, by the explosion of a gasometer in one of the cars of the 11 o'clock a.m. train on the New Jersey Railroad from Jersey City to Philadelphia. She was holding a conversation with a party of friends, when suddenly the cars were filled with gas. One of the passengers in a moment perceived the danger, and he immediately opened the door of the car, and the gas escaped. The explosion was very loud, and the cars were filled with smoke and gas. The young lady was slightly injured, and she was taken to the hospital. The explosion was caused by a gasometer in one of the cars of the 11 o'clock a.m. train on the New Jersey Railroad from Jersey City to Philadelphia.

THE TRIAL OF CARTER FOR MANSLAUGHTER.—George Carter, the runner indicted for manslaughter in killing John Herringham, by brutally beating him, was arraigned before Judge Ogden, in the Hudson County Court of Oyer and Terminer on Saturday. The day was occupied in arguing the jurisdiction of the Court. It will be recollected that the offense was committed in New-York, where the defendant is now residing. The case is a difficult one, and it is expected that it will be argued for some time.

ALLEGED PERSECUTIONS.—There is considerable talk in New-York City, and in the surrounding country, of alleged persecutions. It is said that a number of persons have been persecuted by a certain party, and that they have been subjected to various wrongs. It is said that a number of persons have been persecuted by a certain party, and that they have been subjected to various wrongs.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.—The Supreme Court—Special Term—Jan. 22. The Court met at 10 o'clock, and the following cases were argued: *People v. Carter*, *People v. Herringham*, *People v. Fowler*, *People v. Carter*, *People v. Herringham*, *People v. Fowler*.

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being the principal fact, and the conveyance and declaration of trust, which was the subject of the defendant's claim.

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS—SATURDAY, JAN. 22. Before Judge Russell. A few miscellaneous cases were passed in this Court to-day, which were not for the term.

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with free supplies of cash stock it fell off to \$54, closing at \$6. And after the Second Board there were some new orders on the market, and the quotation ran up to \$7 1/2, but with disposition to put out at stock.

We now hear that notwithstanding the details which have been made, there has been some bad feeling between Mr. Vanderbilt and the Pacific Mail Company, growing out of the retention by the Company of one-half the monthly subsidy as a sort of guarantee for good faith, and that this policy is now abandoned by vote of the Board and the entire cardinals restored. It is also said that the business of the route requires greater facilities, and that the Commodore's boats will be used for the purpose of making that weekly connection with the Pacific which will doubtless be required by the Postmaster-General in awarding the new mail contract. Whatever the solution of this Pacific mail problem, which has vexed the street for the last two months, may be, it is certain that something has brought in buyers to-day, who have put up the market nearly 2 1/2 cts. New-York Central opened at \$44, but during the day, cash stock being scarce, it advanced to \$5. About 2,000 shares, it is understood, were taken out of the street to-day, temporarily, which caused some difficulty in making deliveries. Erie was firm, but not active, at 14 1/4. The negotiations for the progress of the work upon the Tunnel and Long Dock have not been completed, but are in very favorable shape, and the manager anticipates that cars will run through Bergen Hill within ten months. The value of this Long Dock improvement to the Erie Road can scarcely be overestimated. The net earnings of this road for December, as we stated some days ago, are officially announced as showing a decline of \$85,000. Hudson River sold at \$41. The January receipts thus far are about the same as for January 1858, 1859, some \$10,000 advantage. Reading continues to be heavy, selling down to 49 1/2 and closing at 49 1/2 bid. The Philadelphia are believed to be sellers. The Westerns were generally firmer. Michigan Bank was rather scarce, and closed firm at 62 1/2 bid. Galena and Rock Island were without important change from Friday, but after the foreign news was received, it advanced to 68 1/2. The result of the meetings of shareholders in London was considered confirmatory of the statements that the English interest will furnish all the money needed to carry the concern through 1859. In State and Railroad Bonds there is but little doing, but the market is firm, excepting for La Crosse Land Grant Bonds, which fell off to 2 1/2.

The Erie and Harlem securities are very firm. The Erie prices were: Missouri 6, 8 1/2, 9 1/2; Virginia 6, 8 1/2, 9 1/2; Centon Company, 19 1/2, 20; Pennsylvania, 19 1/2, 20; Erie Railroad, 14 1/4, 14 1/2; Harlem Railroad, 14 1/4, 14 1/2; Reading Railroad, 14 1/4, 14 1/2; Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana Railroad, 14 1/4, 14 1/2; Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana Railroad, 14 1/4, 14 1/2; Panama Railroad, 14 1/4, 14 1/2; Illinois Central Railroad, 14 1/4, 14 1/2; Galena and Chicago Railroad, 14 1/4, 14 1/2; Cleveland and Toledo Railroad, 14 1/4, 1